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The Scottish Parliament: its Constitution and Procedure, 1603-1707; with an Appendix of Documents. By CHARLES SANFORD TERRY, M.A., Burnett-Fletcher Professor of History in the University of Aberdeen. (Glasgow: James MacLehose and Sons. 1905. Pp. x, 228.)

Six years ago Mr. Rait in *The Scottish Parliament before the Union of the Crowns* drew needed attention to the neglected condition of Scottish constitutional history. His essay has since been supplemented by the informing chapters on Scotland in Mr. Porritt's *Unreformed House of Commons*. Now comes a valuable monograph from Professor Terry. The book contains nineteen chapters (which should have been numbered for convenient reference) and, as an appendix, fifty-six pages of well-chosen documents—all but one from *The Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland*. Here appears the evidence for a surprisingly large portion of the text.

Seven chapters describe the constituent elements of Parliament, especially the representatives of the shires and burghs. Qualifications, distribution, the narrow electorate, the tardy approach of Parliament toward the character of a national representative assembly, to which it never really attained, the influence of the different classes and of the Crown, are all admirably expounded. Concerning shire representation, however, the addition to what Rait and Porritt have said is not extensive. We learn something about electoral methods, proxies, payment of members, etc.; but occasionally, as concerning the acts extending the franchise of 1661 and 1681, the account is clearly inferior to Mr. Porritt's. These and certain other acts should at least have explanatory notes in the appendix. The nature of wadsetters and the exceptional conditions in Sutherlandshire should have been set forth. Of burgh representation the account is on many points, for example on the relations between trade privileges and representation, a distinct improvement upon anything we have heretofore had. There is, however, no map of parliamentary representation.

Valuable chapters follow on the house (here one misses a diagram), officials, ceremonial, and discipline of Parliament. The last subject is well cleared up. New light—still more is needed—is shed upon the "Speaker". On these matters, as well as on the whole subject of parliamentary procedure, Professor Terry far surpasses Mr. Porritt, who uses much of the same material, but with less grasp upon its relations and significance. In fact, beginning with the chapter on the Lords of the Articles come Professor Terry's best results. After cautiously presenting a new and plausible theory concerning the rise of the great committee's power, he shows how heavy its tyranny really was, how the Parliament did not adopt, much less reject, its proposals, but simply observed their transformation into law by touch of the sceptre. On this point Porritt and even Gardiner go wrong, though

a nearly correct view was set forth by Rait and many years ago by Cosmo Innes. Then comes the process by which Parliament threw off its bondage to the Articles, and rose "to a reasonable level of procedure with the English Parliament". There is slight contribution, to be sure, on the two constitutional revolutions. Gardiner, for example, explains the essential facts of 1640, and those of 1689-1690 are well known. What Professor Terry does show is that Parliament made a great advance in procedure in 1640 and the years immediately following and held much of that gain between 1660 and 1689. The evidence for all this is scattered through several chapters, and some minor positions (for example, see the first half of page 146) appear mistaken. Also the more independent procedure of Parliament is not reconciled with its political docility. This illustrates a general limitation of the book—too few explanatory references to political history. Nevertheless, the general contribution of the later chapters is of highly substantial value.

The book ends with a patriotic lament. "Pathetic in other aspects, the Union is tragic in this, that it forever closed the career of Parliament at the moment when, after long preparation, it was ready and able to play a fitting part in the nation's history." All of which is, no doubt, affecting; still it seems possible that Professor Terry and those who share his regret might forget their tears by contemplating the present supremacy of Scotsmen in the British Empire.

JOSEPH PARKER WARREN.

Histoire de France depuis les Origines jusqu'à la Révolution.
(Publiée sous la direction de M. ERNEST LAVISSE.) *Louis XIV.:*
La Fronde, Le Roi, Colbert (1643-1685). Par E. LAVISSE.
(Paris: Hachette et Cie. 1906. Pp. 404.)

As the supplementary title implies, this volume has to deal with the institutional history of France during the period of Louis XIV.'s reign, prior to the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. The following is an analysis by chapters. "Livre I., *la Période Mazarine*: Avant la Fronde, La Fronde, Après la Fronde; Livre II., *l'Installation du Roi*: Le Roi, le Premier Ministère, L'État en 1661, L'Offre de Colbert; Livre III., *le Gouvernement économique*: Finances, Travail, Grand Commerce et Colonies; Livre IV., *le Gouvernement politique*: Réduction à l'Obéissance, Lois, Justice et Police; Livre V., *le Gouvernement de la société*: Artisans et Paysans, l'Ordre des Officiers; Noblesse, Clergé."

The fact that this volume is from the pen of the editor-in-chief and projector of the series of which it is a part gives it great interest. The historical world has known that M. Lavissee has been devoting his time for some years past to the reign of Louis XIV. intimations of this have been conveyed to the public through the medium of essays from his pen bearing upon this period, which have appeared in various reviews from time to time, and M. Lavissee has lectured upon it at the Sorbonne.